



NEWS RELEASE

COUNCILMEMBER MARTI EMERALD

Seventh District

Date: February 19, 2010

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For Immediate Release

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COUNCILMEMBER EMERALD PUSHES FOR STRONGER PEDICAB REGULATIONS

Proposed Change in Vehicle Code Would Affect Pedicab Operators

City Councilmember Marti Emerald is supporting State legislation to strengthen laws for operators of pedicabs. Assembly Bill 2294 (AB 2294) would change the California Vehicle Code to require pedicab operators to have a valid California driver's license.

Emerald chairs the Public Safety and Neighborhood Services (PS&NS) Committee. "Since last summer, we've beefed-up rules regulating the overall operation of pedicabs. It makes sense that, if pedicabs share public roadways with other vehicles whose drivers must be licensed, these operators should also be required to have a valid California driver's license."

This is the latest in a series of safety changes Councilmember Emerald has worked on to protect the public.

In July of 2009, a tourist suffered a fatal head injury when she fell out of a pedicab.

The tougher pedicab rules implemented so far include mandatory seat belt use, clearly posted fares, and restrictions on which streets pedicabs may and may not operate.

AB 2294 was introduced by San Diego Assemblyman Marty Block and has the full support of Assemblyman Nathan Fletcher. "I'm pleased we have consensus on both sides of the aisle," stated Emerald. "After all, safety is everyone's business."

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